***What is New in this Application (FY2016)***

*This document provides a summary of what is new in the Fiscal Year 2016 21st Century Community Learning Centers application in Iowa.*

* The application is under 40 pages.
* A “Before You Apply” section has been added to the beginning of the application to aid first-time applicants.
* There is a spread sheet titled “funding formula,” which you should download and use to help you calculate your award request. It will allow you to make sure that your request is not too high or too low.
* Examples of successful previous grant summaries have been provided as a guide for having a well-written application. These examples are found in the document titled “application examples.”
* We have embedded check boxes in the beginning of the application to help grantees with some of the important information that they need to include.
* There will be no more continuation grants. Continuation language has been discontinued and more clarification has been provided surrounding grant length.
* An explanation has been provided regarding the SEA review. A comprehensive site visit has been developed and that information has been posted in the application so that applicants are aware of that.
* All carryover requests must be submitted before July 31, to be processed. Carryover request should be for first year grantees only.
* We are now requiring that all applications should be school-wide, serving all of the kids in the building. This fixes a variety of issues we have had to deal with over the years.
* Summer school-only programs end in that quarter when summer school has been completed. 95 percent of the grant funding needs to be expended at the end of first quarter.
* A note has been added that clarifies that child care is under Iowa Department of Human Services monitoring only. The Iowa Department of Education is no longer monitoring child care.

**Beware of Free Grant Writing**

There are companies that operate online offering “free” grant writing services that are not free. Some require you sign a contract before receiving an award that ask you to purchase from a third party in exchange for their services if awarded. However, you cannot use grant funds before you receive the award and purchases must be allowable. We recommend that you contact your attorney before entering into any agreements.

**Evaluation:** No more than 4% of each site’s total budget should be reserved for local evaluation efforts. You may NOT use grant funds to pay for grant writing or make purchases, enter into any contract or incur expenses before you have a signed grant agreement (pg. 22 of Iowa RFA).

**If you have questions about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Request for Applications, please contact Vic Jaras via** **vic.jaras@iowa.gov****.**